Have a truly delicious birthday, Annie!
Dp

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and Japanese
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Missing Code

Minase Masara & Katou Erena

Volume 1 : Chapter 1

dpscanlations.deathsvertigo.com

Publisher
Gentousha

Published in
Novel lynx 2006/8

ISBN
4910144370869007l4

Genre
Yaoi

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Faye

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Dangerous pleasure scanlation group

2006年8月1日発行（毎月1日発売）
新4転第8号 通巻第328号

小説 リンクス

読者さま感謝祭★記念グッズプレゼント!!

LYNX NOVEL SERIES 2006年8月号

華藤えれな
【上海夜啼鳥】
CUT 高生ミオ

柊平ハルモ
【伯爵は花と戯れる】
小路龍流

きたざわ尋子
【言葉なんていらない】
笹生コーイチ

十掛あいい
【ブルーノベライズ化記念番外編!!】
花町物語

特集 答格
裏に秘めたその後は…

COLUMN
きたざわ尋子
高久りつこ
成村まこと
五百崎のりかず
高崎 蘭

COMICS
ゆのはら栞子
【ぼくは魔法使い】
ホームラン・学
【幻十郎】
水名瀬雅良
原作／華藤えれな
【ミッシング コード】

初登場 中原一也
【一枚目は子羊を喰う】
CUT 小山田あみ

初登場 響かつら
【初めて知れない熱情】
CUT 林田滑稽

一夜に変わる執事の純情
CUT 麻生海

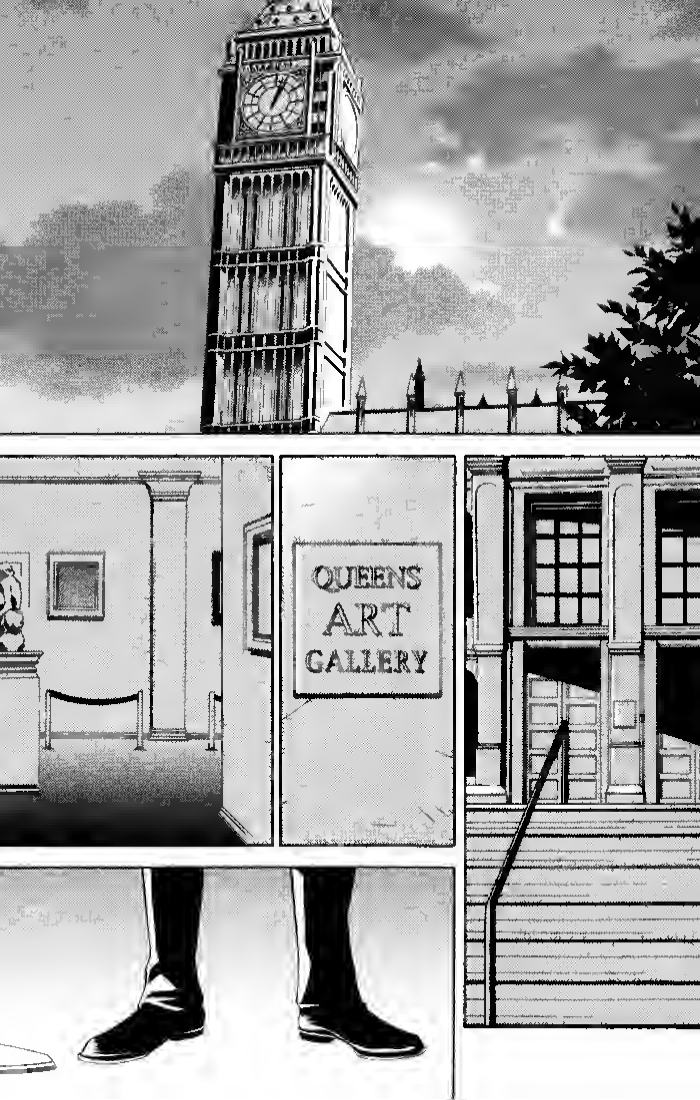
バーバラ片桐
【ひとつ屋根の下で一夜一夜】
CUT 麻生海

笹生茉莉花
CUT 麻生海

初登場 森本あき
【幼なじみは無邪気な小悪魔】
CUT 麻生海

2006.AUG.
8月号
定価750円

ミッシング・ゴッド
missing god
AN ART THEFT IS THE BEGINNING
OF THEIR STORMY DESTINY.
水名瀬雅良
みなせ まさら
華藤えれな
かとう


QUEENS
ART
GALLERY

HEY!
THE WINDOW'S OPEN!
WE HAVE A PROBLEM!

THE PAINTING!

The Russian Connection, Markov's residence
KNOCK
KNOCK
ENTER

PARDON ME
YOU CALLED FOR ME SIR?
IT'S THE ART THIEF...
HE'S STRUCK AGAIN... ALEXIS
THE "EXPULSION FROM THE GARDEN OF EDEN" WAS STOLEN FROM THE QUEEN'S ART GALLERY LAST NIGHT...

IT IS THE PAINTING THAT WAS PAIRED WITH THIS ONE
THIS IS
IF THE PAINTINGS AREN'T TOGETHER THEY ARE NO LONGER WORTH 200 MILLION DOLLARS
WE'D BEEN PLANNING TO HAND THEM OVER TO A MEXICAN SMUGGLER
THE PAINTING I STOLE ON MARKOV'S ORDERS SIX MONTHS AGO
CLENCH
DAMN IT!

THIS WILL BE YOUR NEW JOB, ALEXIS.
EVERY PAINTING STOLEN FROM ME DAMAGES MY REPUTATION.
FIND OUT WHY HE'S SO WELL-INFORMED ABOUT OUR EVERY MOVE.
CATCH THE CULPRIT!
IT DOESN'T MATTER WHY HE'S INTERFERING IN OUR BUSINESS.
YOU HAVE MY PERMISSION TO DEAL WITH HIM AS YOU SEE FIT.
UNDERSTOOD.

AN ART THIEF WHO LEAVES A SINGLE ROSE AT THE CRIME SCENE
IS THERE A MEANING BEHIND THAT FLOWER?
LET'S START THE INVESTIGATION IN THE MOST OBVIOUS PLACE
CLACK

Art Heritage Research Center London Art University

NOT YET
SO MANY ART PIECES HAVE BEEN STOLEN LATELY THAT THE CASES KEEP PILING UP
YOU HAVEN'T GONE HOME YET, KAIRI?
YOU REALLY ARE WORKING HARD TO GATHER THIS DATA FOR ME.
I'LL TREAT YOU TO DINNER NEXT TIME. SO KEEP UP THE GOOD WORK.
THANK YOU, PROFESSOR SMITH.
THERE'S NO NEED TO WORRY ABOUT ANYTHING.

SEEING ALL THESE CASES OF STOLEN ART IS UNBEARABLE
MUNCH, PICASSO VAN GOGH VERMEER
JUST HOW MANY MASTER-PIECES WERE STOLEN OVER THE LAST 10 YEARS?
YES, THERE'S JUST A BIT MORE.
WELL? IS THE DATA COMING TOGETHER NICELY?
WE'RE PLANNING TO USE THIS INFORMATION TO HELP THE POLICE MAKE AN ARREST ONCE IT'S DONE
I CAN'T WAIT

SAKAMOTO KAIRI, 28 YEARS OLD
A GRADUATE OF LONDON ART UNIVERSITY'S HISTORY DEPARTMENT. HE IS PROFESSOR SMITH'S ASSISTANT
A SECOND GENERATION JAPANESE LIVING IN LONDON
HE'S ALSO IN CHARGE OF THE ART RESTORATION PROJECT
WHILE COLLECTING DATA ON THE STOLEN ART PIECES.

SHOCK
?!
I HAVE SOME-THING TO DIS-CUSS
GET IN THE CAR

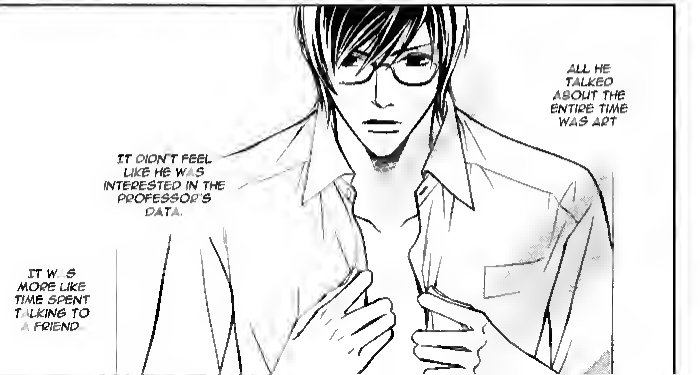
UMM.
YOU ARE...?
I'M HERE ON MARKOV'S BEHALF
DO YOU UNDER-STAND?
THIS MAN IS

gasp
EXCUSE ME
WHEN YOU SAY "MARKOV,"
DO YOU MEAN OF THE FAMOUS RUSSIAN CONNECTION?
YES
I'M INTERESTED IN THE DATA YOU'RE PREPARING...
...FOR THE PROFESSOR
EVEN THE STAFF CAN'T TAKE IT OUT
THAT DATA IS UNDER RESTRICTED ACCESS

MY SOURCES TELL ME
—THAT HE'S A QUIET AND TIMID MAN OF JAPANESE DESCENT.
BUT RIGHT NOW HIS GUARD IS UP.
extend
THERE MUST BE SOME-THING.
I'M ALEXIS. LET'S TALK A BIT.

ALEXIS...
HUH?
Masterpieces hold the charm of being one of a kind...
clink

THAT MAN
FOR JUST A MAFIA THUG
Do you understand that value?
Who knows
All I know is the overwhelming power I sense when I see a real masterpiece
Every collector covets a masterpiece...
because they want something unique of the highest value


ALL HE TALKED ABOUT THE ENTIRE TIME WAS ART
IT DIDN'T FEEL LIKE HE WAS INTERESTED IN THE PROFESSOR'S DATA.
IT WAS MORE LIKE TIME SPENT TALKING TO A FRIEND.

Thank you
I enjoyed talking with you today

DIDN'T HE APPROACH ME TO GET THE PROFESSOR'S DATA?
I DON'T GET IT
WHAT IS HE THINKING?

fsssshh
OR IS HIS REAL OBJECTIVE...
NO ONE IS SUPPOSED TO NOTICE
THAT THE THIEF THE MAFIA IS LOOKING FOR
IS KAIRI

BUT IT SEEMS LIKE THAT MAN NOTICED SOMETHING
NO ONE
MUST DISCOVER MY TRUE IDENTITY

WHAT?!
AN ARAB OIL BARON BOUGHT BOTH PAINTINGS FROM THE "EXPULSION FROM THE GARDEN OF EDEN" SERIES?
YES ACCORDING TO THE LONDON POLICE
A FAMOUS ART COLLECTOR PAID A LARGE SUM OF MONEY TO THE THIEF FOR THEM
THAT CAN'T BE! I HAVE ONE OF THE PAINTINGS!
THERE'S NO WAY THAT TRANSACTION HAPPENED
WHY?

I KNEW IT. THIS ONE IS STILL HERE

ALEXIS?!
THAT'S AS FAR AS YOU GO
JUST AS I THOUGHT, THE INFORMATION WAS A TRAP.
ARE YOU THE CULPRIT?
YOU DON'T SEEM TO BELONG TO ANY ORGANIZATION.

OVERPOWER
!!!
WHAT'S YOUR MOTIVE?
I CAN'T LET YOU STEAL THE PAINTING
AND OF COURSE I CAN'T LET YOU KILL ME

!
THUD
KEEP QUIET! IF YOU MAKE ANY NOISE THE PEOPLE OUTSIDE WILL HEAR
YOU KNOW, MARKOV PUT OUT AN ORDER TO KILL YOU.
WHY DO YOU CONTINUE TO STEAL?
FOR THE MONEY.

DON'T LIE!
GRAB
WHA——?!
JOL
STO——!
IF YOU DON'T TELL ME THE REASON, I'LL TAKE YOUR BODY
MY BODY?!

WHY IS HE DOING THIS?
I DON'T GET IT
TELL ME OR PREPARE YOURSELF
REWARD?
I'M SAVING YOUR LIFE
AT LEAST GIVE ME A REWARD

DO AS YOU PLEASE

Ah...
Hnh?!
EVEN THOUGH WE'LL GET IN TROUBLE IF YOU'RE LOUD
DON'T BITE YOUR LIP YOU'LL HURT YOURSELF
caress

Eh?!
SPREAD
Ahh!
THRUST
CREAK
It hurts!
Ah!
Ngh!
CREAK
CREAK

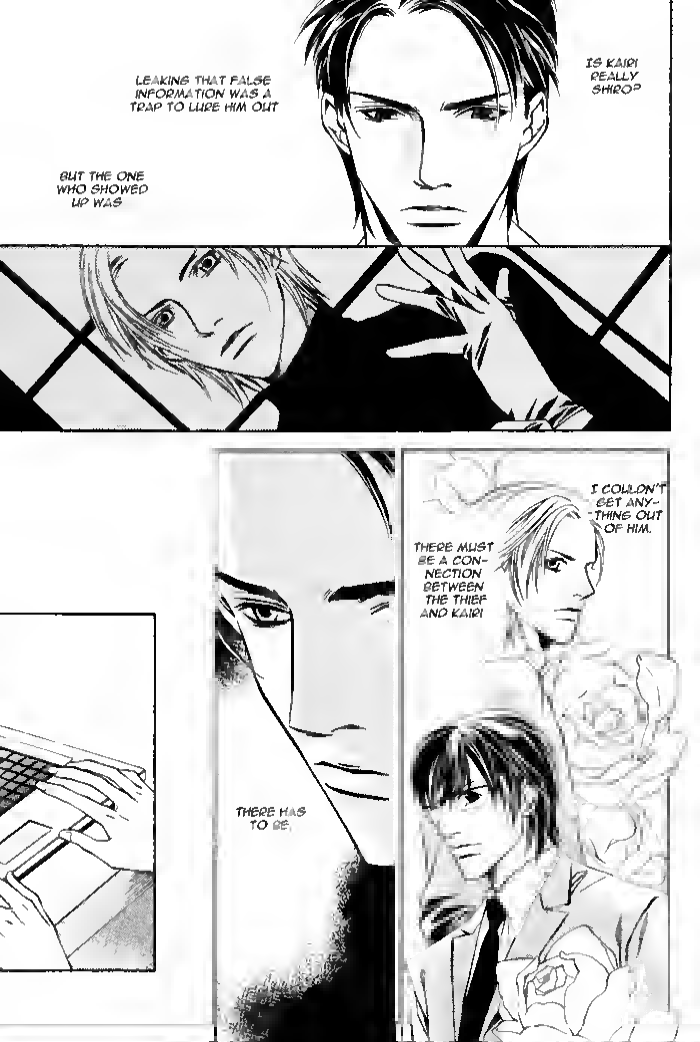
Haa
Nnn
Mmph
Hm
haa
haa
RELAX.
I DON'T PLAN ON BEING ROUGH.

Ah!
Hah
THIS MAN

sigh

SO KAORI HASN'T STEPPED OUT OF HIS ROOM ALL NIGHT.

I see.


LEAKING THAT FALSE INFORMATION WAS A TRAP TO LURE HIM OUT
IS KAIDI REALLY SHIRO?
BUT THE ONE WHO SHOWED UP WAS
I COULDN'T GET ANY-THING OUT OF HIM.
THERE MUST BE A CON-NECTION BETWEEN THE THIEF AND KAIDI
THERE HAS TO BE.

blush
LAST NIGHT...
WAS LAST NIGHT A TRAP?
BUT BECAUSE OF THAT, KAIRI WILL HAVE AN ALIBI
IF HE INVESTIGATES EVEN A LITTLE HE'LL DISCOVER MY BACKGROUND IS FAKE
SOMETHING LIKE THAT ISN'T A BIG DEAL.
I CAN'T LET ALEXIS SUSPECT KAIRI
AND IF THAT HAPPENS IT'LL BE TOO LATE
I WONDER WHY HE SAVED MY LIFE.
HE'S A STRANGE MAN

HOWEVER RIGHT NOW,
HE SHOULD BELIEVE THAT KAIRI IS NOT THE ART THIEF
SCREECH
WON'T YOU GET IN?

水名瀬雅良先生への感想・ファンレターは

〒151-0051
東京都渋谷区千駄ヶ谷4-9-7
(株)幻冬舎コミックス 小説リンクス編集部 気付

Dp
Happy Birthday,
Melona!

Editors
and Japanese
Translators
Wanted!
dp_scanlations@yahoo.com
dpscanlations.deathsverse.com

THREE COMICS

LYNX COLLECTION

DRAMATIC BOYS' LOVE COMICS

ミッシングコード

MINASE MASARA
水名瀬雅良
原作
華藤えれな

DRAMATIC BOY'S LOVE COMICS

BIRZ COMICS LYNX COLLECTION

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Masara Minase
presents

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9784344815094

1929979005900

ISBN978-4-344-81509-4

C9979 ¥590E

雑誌 54248-38
定価：本体590円＋税
発行＝幻冬舎コミックス
発売＝幻冬舎

During the day, Julian works as an assistent, but at night he is the "Rose Thief" who leaves Charlotte roses at the scene of the crime. To avenge his deed parents, Julian is working to expose the illegal dealings of Markov, the leader of the Russian mafia. But then Julian meets Markov's subordinate, Alexis. .

水名瀬雅良
MINASE MASARA

This is my first time in Lynx comics.
I'm looking forward to it.

BIRTHDAY:
DECEMBER 16TH

STAR SIGN:
SAGITTARIUS

BLOOD TYPE:
B

BIRTH PLACE:
IWATE PREFECTURE

LIKES:
CATS, CHOCOLATE

DISLIKES:
BUGS

RECENT WISH:
I WANT MORE TIME!
24 HOURS A DAY ISN'T ENOUGH!

PROFILE

COVER DESIGN：清水香苗（Cuon.Design）

ミッシングコード
MASARA MINASE
水名瀬雅良

ミッシングコード
act:2

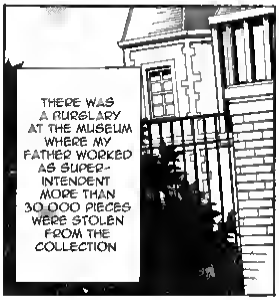
AREN'T YOU BUSY?
YOU'VE INVITED ME OUT TWO DAYS IN A ROW
AND CHATTING ABOUT ART HAS BECOME MY JOY
SEEING YOUR BEAUTIFUL FACE AT THE END OF THE DAY

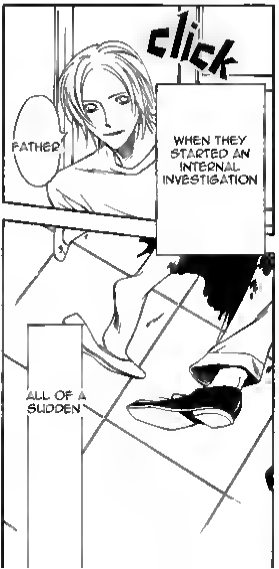
sigh
HE SOUNDS LIKE HE'S TELLING THE TRUTH,
BUT HE'S ONE OF THE RUSSIAN MAFIA
HIS GOAL IS...
...THE DATA I'M GUILDING FOR THE ART INVESTI- G TION BY THE
I MIGHT GET IN TROU- BLE
I'M WITH THE HERITAGE CENTER
IF MY COLLEAGUES FIND OUT I'M SEEING YOU, CHANCES ARE THEY'LL THINK I'M A SPY
IN THAT CASE
JUST DON'T COME WITH ME
...

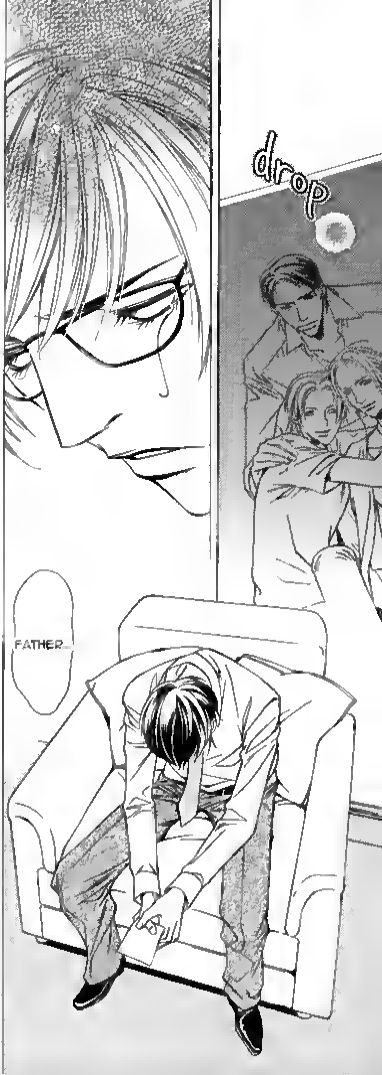
SLIT
I can't understand the people who buy art pieces
Sigh
ALL I HAVE TO DO IS TURN DOWN HIS INVITATIONS
thud
JUST WHAT AM I DOING?!

How can money possibly define the value of something that has infinite value?
THERE ARE SOME THINGS THAT ARE JUST PRICELESS
THIS ISN'T SOMETHING THAT CAN BE BOUGHT WITH MONEY
THAT'S WHY...
THAT MAN SAID THE SAME THING AS MY FATHER
I ACCEPTED HIS INVITATION

Six years ago


THERE WAS A BURGLARY AT THE MUSEUM WHERE MY FATHER WORKED AS SUPERINTENDENT MORE THAN 30,000 PIECES WERE STOLEN FROM THE COLLECTION


click
FATHER
WHEN THEY STARTED AN INTERNAL INVESTIGATION
ALL OF A SUDDEN


drop
FATHER

MY PARENTS WERE MYSTERIOUSLY KILLED
FATHER! MOTHER!
IT SEEMS THAT YOUR PARENTS WERE LEAKING INFORMATION TO THE THIEVES IN RETURN FOR MONEY
PERHAPS THEY WANTED TO BACK OUT OF THE DEAL AND GOT KILLED AS A RESULT
NO!
THERE'S NO WAY MY FATHER WOULD HAVE-
IN THE END
MY FATHER'S NAME WAS DISGRACED AND I WAS DRIVEN OUT OF MY HOMETOWN

squeak
squeak
splash
BANG
THEN I FOUND OUT MARKOV WAS BEHIND THE WHOLE INCIDENT.
SO IT'S DIFFICULT TO PROVE HIS GUILT
BUT HE HAS CONNECTIONS WITH POLITICIANS AND THE POLICE.

THAT'S WHY I'M ACTING AS BAIT
I WILL EXPOSE MARKOV'S CRIME NETWORK
I'LL PROVOKE HIM BY STEALING THE ART PIECES HE'S TARGETING

ALEXIS
SINCE THAT INCIDENT I HAVE THROWN AWAY ALL HUMAN EMOTIONS
IS NOT ONLY MARKOV'S SUBORDINATE,
HE IS ALSO MY ENEMY

THIS PAINTING IS PROBABLY MARKOV'S NEXT TARGET
IT'S BEEN CONFIRMED THAT MARKOV'S SECRETARY IS MEETING WITH A MILLIONAIRE
THIS ARTIST HAS BEEN SELLING FOR HIGH PRICES IN AMERICAN AUCTIONS LATELY.
KAIRI.
PROFESSOR SMITH
DID SOMETHING HAPPEN?
THERE HAVE BEEN SOME COMPLICATIONS.

THIS IS CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION,
BUT IT SEEMS THAT ALONG WITH THE ROSE THIEF,
ANOTHER BURGLAR HAS BEEN MAKING ROUNDS
IS THAT SO?
REBUILDING THE DATA WILL BE TROUBLESOME,
THIS IS WHY THE POLICE ARE FORMING A CRIME FIGHTING TEAM.
THEY ARE REQUESTING NEW DATA TO HELP THEM PREVENT ANOTHER THEFT
AND I M IN THE MIDDLE OF SETTING A TRAP TO EXPOSE MARKOV!
JUST WHO IS THAT THIEF?

THIS MUST BE A TRAP SET BY ALEXIS
NO
IT'S SOME-ONE ELSE
ARE YOU
LADY CHARLOTTE?
?!

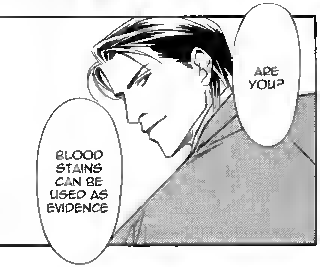
OH, HE'S REFERRING TO THE NAME OF THE ROSES
I'M HAPPY THAT YOU'RE A BEAUTIFUL MAN.
JUST AS I IMAGINED
LUNGE
BUT I CAN'T LET YOU STEAL THIS PAINTING

!
SLASH
smirk
DON'T MOVE!
DAMN!

JUMP
SHIT!
ALEXIS?
twitch
WAIT!
sneak
DID HE LURE ME OUT WITH THIS PAINTING?
WAS THIS ANOTHER OF HIS TRAPS?

DON'T I EVEN GET A "THANK YOU" FOR SAVING YOU?
I DON'T REMEMBER ASKING YOU TO
I'VE WANTED TO SEE YOU THIS WHOLE TIME
I JUST COULDN'T FORGET YOUR BODY.
Chuuu
STOP MESSING AROUND!
WAS THAT GUY JUST NOW AN ACQUAINTANCE OF YOURS?
NO WAY
SLAP

I'M FINE

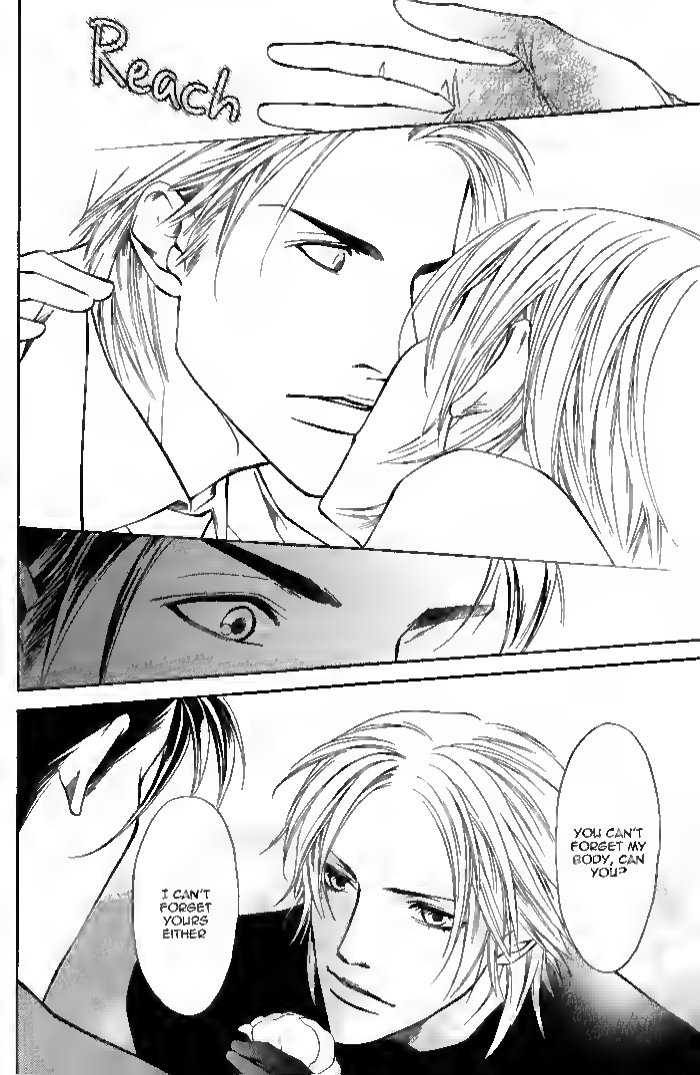

ARE YOU?
BLOOD STAINS CAN BE USED AS EVIDENCE

I SEE
I'LL TREAT YOUR INJURY COME

THIS MEANS WE'RE BACK TO SQUARE ONE
SO THERE'S ANOTHER THIEF

DIDN'T I TELL YOU I'M IN IT FOR THE MONEY?
HAVE YOU CHANGED YOUR MIND ABOUT TELLING ME THE REASON FOR YOUR STEALING?
YOU SPEAK ENGLISH WITH A BIT OF A GERMAN ACCENT.
FROM NORTH-NO, EAST GERMANY
ARE YOU OF GERMAN DESCENT?
...?!
THIS GUY ISN'T JUST SOME MAFIA UNDERLING. WHO IN THE WORLD...?

WHO ARE YOU?
THAT'S NONE OF YOUR CONCERN
OR DID YOU WANT ANOTHER REWARD?
AND WHAT IF I DO?
...


Reach
YOU CAN'T FORGET MY BODY, CAN YOU?
I CAN'T FORGET YOURS EITHER

I'M DAZZLED BY YOU
laugh
WHO SMELLS OF ROSES
Crush

Ah.
Jolt
Hn...
Hn...

Aahh!

Ah...
haa
haa
haa
haa
THRUST
Ahh!
Han!
Ah
Ah!
squelch
Hn!
squelch
Ah...

slam
LET'S GO FOR A DRINK
GET IN THE CAR

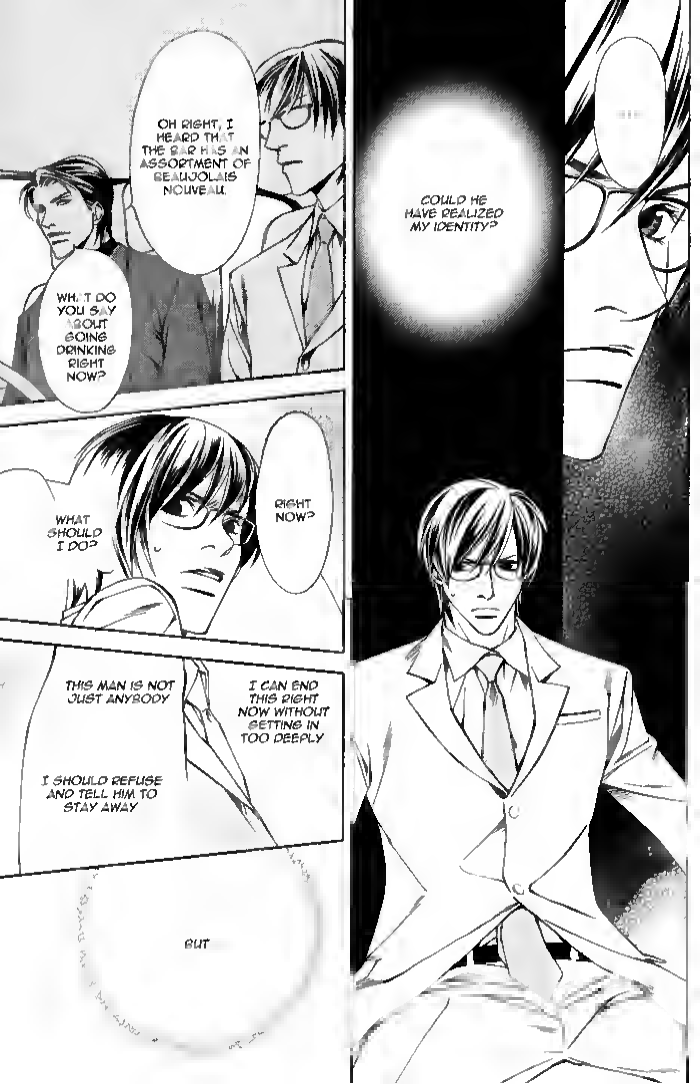
WHAT'S WRONG?
YOU DON'T LOOK SO GOOD TODAY
ARE YOU INJURED OR SOMETHING?
IT'S NOTHING
NO
I HAD A DREAM YESTERDAY THAT YOU WERE INJURED
IS THERE SOMETHING WRONG?
GRAB

HE HAS BEAUTIFUL ENGLISH PRONUNCIA-TION
I GUESS SO IT SEEMS LIKE I WAS WRONG
IT'S NOT GOOD TO MIX UP DREAMS AND REALITY
UNTIL NOW MY INTUITION HAS NEVER FAILED ME
BUT JUST THIS ONCE
THIS AROMA..

SO THAT S
HOW IT IS..

I LOOK FOPWARD TO EXPOS-ING YOU
IT SEEMS LIKE YOU'RE QUITE A BAD GUY
SOME-THING WRONG?

LET'S JUST LEAVE IT AT THAT
A BAD GUY WHO HAS CAPTURED MY HEART
YEAH
A BAD GUY?


OH RIGHT, I HEARD THAT THE BAR HAS AN ASSORTMENT OF BEAUJOLAIS NOUVEAU.
WH- T DO YOU SAY 'BOUT GOING DRINKING RIGHT NOW?
RIGHT NOW?
WHAT SHOULD I DO?
THIS MAN IS NOT JUST ANYBODY
I CAN END THIS RIGHT NOW WITHOUT GETTING IN TOO DEEPLY
I SHOULD REFUSE AND TELL HIM TO STAY AWAY
BUT
COULD HE HAVE REALIZED MY IDENTITY?

YOU'RE COMING RIGHT?
YES,
AS LONG AS YOU'RE TREATING
Vroooom

Missing Code

Minase Masara & Katoh Elena

Volume 1 : Chapter 2

dpscanlations.deathsvertigo.com

Publisher
Gentousha

Published in
Novel Lynx

ISBN
9784344815094

Genre
Yaoi

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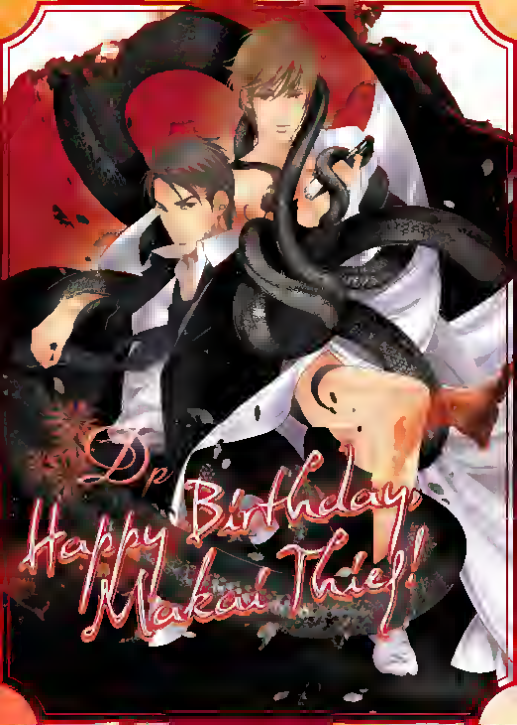

Happy Birthday
Makai Thief!

We are currently looking for
EDITORS, CLEANERS and SCANNERS
for our MINASE MASARA projects.

ミッシングコード
act.3

ミッシングコード

THE PAINTING WAS STOLEN!
IS THE CULPRIT THE ROSE THIEF?
STAND BACK!
BACK!

THE PAINTING FROM THE OTHER DAY WAS STOLEN
DID THAT MAN STEAL IT?
OR...

THAT PAIN-TING...
SHOULD BE FACING THE STATUE OF LIBERTY THROUGH A WINDOW RIGHT NOW

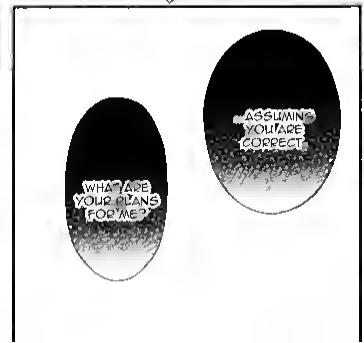
SO THE PAINTING IS IN THE U.S.?
AND MARKOV IS THE CULPRIT.
WHICH MEANS I'VE FAILED
I AM DISAPPOINTED IN YOU
YOU TOLD ME THAT YOU LOVE ART
BUT IN THE END
"YOUR ACTIONS SHOW THE OPPOSITE." IS THAT WHAT YOU WERE GOING TO SAY?

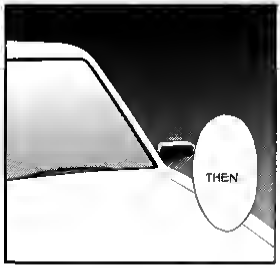
WHAT DID YOU EXPECT?
I WORK FOR MARKOV...
CLENCH
THAT'S WHY AS KAIRI...
AND AS JULIAN...
I...
I UNDERSTAND THAT.
BUT I THOUGHT HE WAS DIFFERENT SOMEHOW...

KAIDI
I KNOW YOU'RE THE ART THIEF
I DON'T APPRECIATE HAVING FALSE ACCUSATIONS FLUNG AT ME
SO HE FIGURED IT OUT
THAT'S WHY MY SUBORDINATES DIDN'T NOTICE YOU SNEAKING OUT
FIRST, ACCORDING TO THE BLUEPRINT OF YOUR APARTMENT, THERE'S A SECRET PASSAGE UNDER THE GARAGE
HERE'S MY REASONING

SECOND,
THE PERSON NAMED SAKAMOTO KYOSUKE HAS BEEN DEAD FOR MORE THAN 20 YEARS.
THIRD,
HE WENT THIS FAR
grrr
THE SCENT OF THESE FLOWERS
FOURTH

THERE SHOULD BE A SCAR FROM THAT KNIFE WOUND HERE
GRIP
...!


WHAT ARE YOUR PLANS FOR ME?
ASSUMING YOU ARE CORRECT


THEN

I HAVE SOMETHING I WANT YOU TO HELP ME WITH.
ARE YOU PLANNING TO MAKE ME STEAL?
I UNDERSTAND YOUR CAUTION.
SO I'LL WAIT FOR YOUR ANSWER.
IF I'VE GAINED EVEN A LITTLE OF YOUR TRUST DURING OUR MEETINGS...
THEN CONTACT ME HERE.

I DON'T UNDERSTAND THAT MAN'S INTENTIONS
THERE WAS NO MEANING BEHIND THAT ACT
IN ORDER TO HIDE MY TRUE IDENTITY, I
BUT I DIDN'T REFUSE HIM RIGHT AWAY...!!
BECAUSE I FEEL THAT THERE'S SOMETHING DIFFERENT ABOUT HIM
HELPING THE MAFIA IS...

crumple
THAT'S RIGHT
FOR REVENGE
THAT'S WHY...
SOME-THING LIKE THIS
PROFESSOR SMITH?
YES?
RRRR...
Kairi! Something terrible has happened!
Come to the Queen's Art Gallery right away

sigh
THE CROWN THAT THE COUNT OF BATH ASKED US TO RESTORE HAS BEEN STOLEN!
WHAT?!
A CROWN OF PURE GOLD ONCE USED IN THE CORONATION CEREMONY OF RUSSIAN MONARCHS
THE FAMOUS NATIONAL TREASURE ADORNED WITH A 140-CARAT BLUE DIAMOND
THIS FOREIGNER IS...?
AH. THIS IS MY ASSISTANT
HE'S HALF JAPANESE AND HALF ENGLISH

I'M SAKAMOTO KAIRI PLEASED TO MEET YOU
I'M RUSSELL OF THE LONDON POLICE ART CRIME SQUAD
I AM PLEASED TO MAKE YOUR ACQUAINTANCE
YOU!
THERE ARE MANY OFFICERS WHO ARE CONNECTED TO THE MAFIA,
BUT HE'S ONE OF THE FEW WHO CAN BE TRUSTED
HE'S A VERY CAPABLE INVESTIGATOR AND HAS SOLVED NUMEROUS CASES OF ART THEFT

IT'S NEITHER MARKOV NOR THE ROSE THIEF
THIS IS THE WORK OF A NEW PERP
IT'S MOST LIKELY THAT MAN!
...
YES, SIR!
LET'S STRENGTHEN SECURITY!
TOMORROW WE'LL PUT THE EXPERTISE OF THE ART CRIME SQUAD TO WORK

ALEXIS AGAIN?
SCREECH
I BELIEVE THIS IS THE FIRST TIME WE'VE MET
SAKAMOTO KAIRI THAT'S NOT YOUR REAL NAME
PLEASE STOP MAKING SUCH BASELESS ACCUSATIONS
LAST TIME THERE WAS SOMEONE IN THE WAY SO WE COULDN'T TALK
IT'S BEEN A WHILE LADY CHARLOTTE

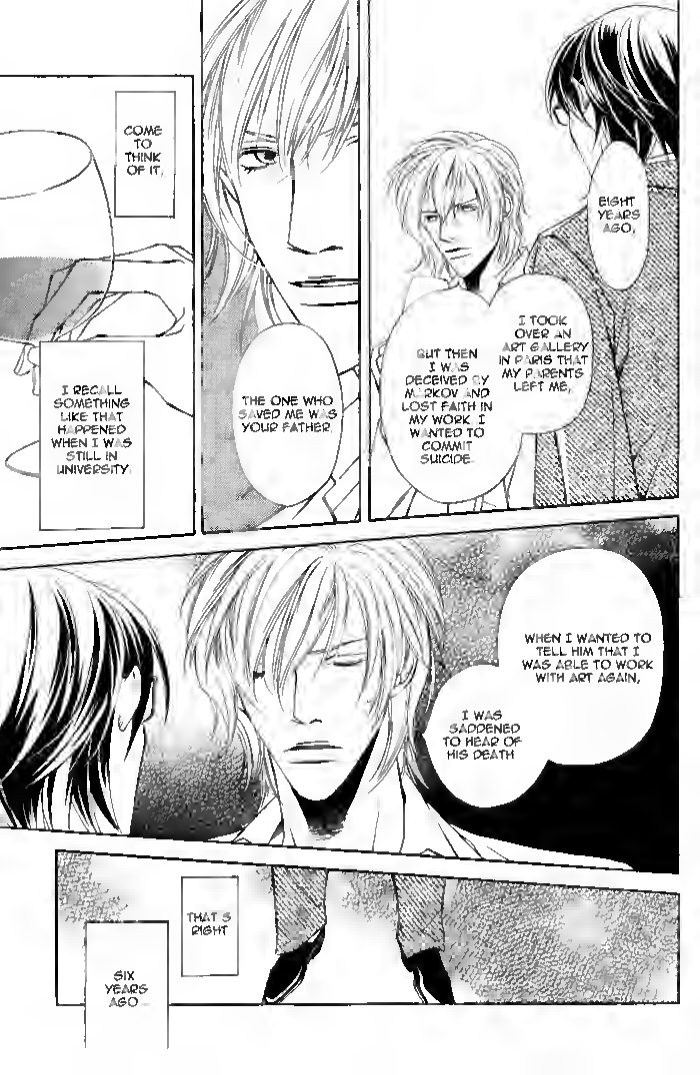
YOUR REAL NAME IS JULIAN ROSENBERG
CHARLOTTE IS THE NAME OF YOUR MOTHER
!
WHAT DO YOU WANT?
GET IN
I HAVE SOME-THING TO DISCUSS
smirk

IS IT OKAY TO TRUST THIS MAN?
BUT HE ALREADY KNOWS MY NAME
IF I RUN AWAY, HE'LL EXPOSE ME

WHY WOULD SOMEONE LIKE YOU STEAL?

I'M HERVÉ
I'M A WELL-KNOWN ART DEALER IN LONDON
DON'T BE SO WARY

I RETURNED THAT CROWN THIS MORNING
JUST AS YOU ARE STEALING TO PROVOKE MARKOV,
I'M STEALING TO PROVOKE BOTH YOU AND MARKOV
WHY?!
I WANTED TO MEET YOU...
BECAUSE I OWE MY LIFE TO YOUR FATHER
WHAT?


EIGHT YEARS AGO,
I TOOK OVER AN ART GALLERY IN PARIS THAT MY PARENTS LEFT ME,
BUT THEN I WAS DECEIVED BY MARKOV AND LOST FAITH IN MY WORK. I WANTED TO COMMIT SUICIDE.
THE ONE WHO SAVED ME WAS YOUR FATHER.
COME TO THINK OF IT,
I RECALL SOMETHING LIKE THAT HAPPENED WHEN I WAS STILL IN UNIVERSITY.
WHEN I WANTED TO TELL HIM THAT I WAS ABLE TO WORK WITH ART AGAIN,
I WAS SADDENED TO HEAR OF HIS DEATH
THAT'S RIGHT
SIX YEARS AGO...

HE RESEMBLES YOU
HE FAILED ONCE, BUT I HEARD HE'S DOING WELL IN LONDON NOW
YEAH
YOU SAID HE IS YOUNG BUT VERY SKILLED
REMEMBER THE ART DEALER I MENTIONED WHO COULD TELL IF A PAINTING WAS FAKE WITH JUST ONE GLANCE?

I'LL INTRODUCE HIM TO YOU
I THINK YOU'LL BECOME GOOD FRIENDS
HE WROTE TO SAY HE'S VISITING NEXT MONTH

SO THIS IS HIM

I'VE BEEN LOOKING FOR YOU EVER SINCE
WHEN I WENT TO GERMANY
YOU HAD VANISHED AND YOUR FATHER HAD BEEN BRANDED A THIEF
I THOUGHT THAT MAYBE...
WHEN I HEARD ABOUT AN ART THIEF WHO LEFT CHARLOTTE ROSES AS HIS CALLING CARD
YES
HE SAID HE WOULD INTRODUCE US DURING OUR NEXT VACATION
YOUR FATHER?
IT WAS YOU!
FATHER SAID

I WANTED TO MEET YOU.
YOUR FATHER TOLD ME A LOT ABOUT YOU.
HE SAID HE HAD A SMART KIND SON WHO HAD SAME INSTINCTS FOR ART AS I DID
I'M SO HAPPY...
FATHER TOLD ME THE SAME THING...
TO MEET SOMEONE WHO KNEW MY FATHER
open

GO TO AMERICA.
USING YOURSELF AS BAIT IS TOO DANGEROUS
LET ME TAKE CARE OF YOUR VENDETTA AGAINST MARKOV. I WANT TO REPAY YOU
FATHER WOULDN'T WANT SUCH A REPAYMENT!
REVENGE IS MY RESPONSIBILITY
SO...
...YOU'RE SAYING THAT YOU'LL CONTINUE TO STEAL
JUST A LITTLE LONGER!
SOON, MARKOV WILL BE CAUGHT!
THE POLICE HAVE STARTED TO TAKE SERIOUS SECURITY MEASURES

IT'LL BE EASIER TO CORNER HIM IF WE WORK TOGETHER
I'LL PROTECT YOU
I'LL RISK EVERYTHING TO PROTECT YOU
WHY?
...
IN THAT CASE, WHY DON'T WE TEAM UP?

AND WHEN WE FIRST MET,
FROM THAT MOMENT, MY HEART WAS...
THERE'S MY DEBT...
...TO YOUR FATHER.
SO
IF YOU PLAN TO REMAIN IN LONDON
I CAN'T LEAVE YOU HERE ALONE

FOR THE PAST SIX YEARS, I'VE PRETENDED TO BE MY MOTHER'S DECEASED COUSIN
SINCE THE LOSS OF MY PARENTS I BELIEVED I WAS ALONE
I LIVE SOLELY TO EXPOSE MARKOV
CAN YOU IMAGINE HOW MUCH I WANTED TO MEET YOU?
FOR SIX YEARS I'VE SEARCHED FOR YOU
THERE WAS SOMEONE LOOKING FOR ME THE WHOLE TIME
AND TO THINK

HEAVE..
I'LL PROTECT YOU FROM NOW ON.
WAIT..
I HAVE
SHOVE

IS IT THAT MAN?
MARKOV'S SUBORDINATE?
HOW...?!
NO... THAT MAN... I ONLY WANTED INFORMATION
SO YOU GAVE HIM YOUR BODY IN RETURN FOR INFORMATION?
...
HOW FOOLISH
sigh

I WON'T LET THAT HAPPEN AGAIN
I WILL TREASURE YOU
……
!!!

ALEXIS IS MARKOV'S SUBORDINATE
AND MY ENEMY
BUT HERVE HAS BEEN SEARCHING FOR ME FOR THE PAST SIX YEARS
HE'S A PERSON WHOM I CAN TRUST
YOU DON'T HAVE TO FIGHT ALONE ANYMORE
clink
LEAVE EVERYTHING TO ME
HERVE...

GOOD BYE, ALEXIS.

ミッシングコード

Missing Code

Minase Masara & Katoh Elena

Volume 1 : Chapter 3

dpscanlations.deathsvertigo.com

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EDITORS, CLEANERS and SCANNERS
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ミッシングコード
act.4

JULIAN?
HERVE
WAIT

I'M SORRY
DO YOU LOVE THAT MAN?
I HAVE
...LEFT ALL MY EMOTIONS BEHIND IN ORDER TO GET REVENGE.
SO YOU'RE SAYING YOU'LL KEEP FIGHTING ALONE?

YOU WON'T LET ME STAY WITH YOU EVEN THOUGH YOU'RE LONELY?
sigh
IF I HADN'T BEEN PREPARED FOR THAT, THEN I WOULDN'T HAVE CONSIDERED DOING THIS IN THE FIRST PLACE
THERE'S NO NEED FOR THAT
BUT I WANT TO PROTECT YOU
MY FATHER HAD HIGH HOPES FOR YOU
IF YOU WANT TO REPAY HIM
THEN PLEASE BECOME A SUCCESSFUL ART DEALER
BUT

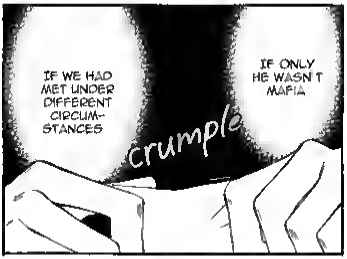
I AM GLAD TO HAVE MET YOU
KNOWING SOMEONE BELIEVES IN MY FATHER'S INNOCENCE
...GIVES ME THE COURAGE TO MOVE FORWARD
...
I UNDER-STAND JUST DO WHAT YOU FEEL IS RIGHT
THANK YOU
TAKE CARE
click
drop

I WISH YOU GOOD LUCK
GOOD-BYE
I LEARNED MANY THINGS HERE
BUT I'LL ONLY CAUSE TROUBLE IF I CONTINUE TO POSE AS KAIRI
IT WAS ONLY FOR A SHORT WHILE. BUT THANK YOU FOR TAKING CARE OF ME
..THAT YOU HAVE TO GO TO JAPAN SO SUDDENLY.
IT'S A PITY..

THANK YOU VERY MUCH
YOU DID GOOD WORK
IF YOU EVER RETURN TO LONDON, COME SEE ME
THANKS TO HERVE I'VE BECOME MORE DETERMINED
I CAN'T LET ANYONE PROTECT ME LIKE HE WANTED TO.
I HAVE TO DO THIS ALONE

NOW I JUST NEED TO TAKE IT TO THE POLICE
flutter
THE EVIDENCE I'VE COLLECTED TO EXPOSE MARKOV'S CRIMES...
IS ALL HERE
Contact me here
ALEXIS...

STRIDE


IF WE HAD MET UNDER DIFFERENT CIRCUM-STANCES
crumple
IF ONLY HE WASN'T MAFIA

pause
...
...
!!!

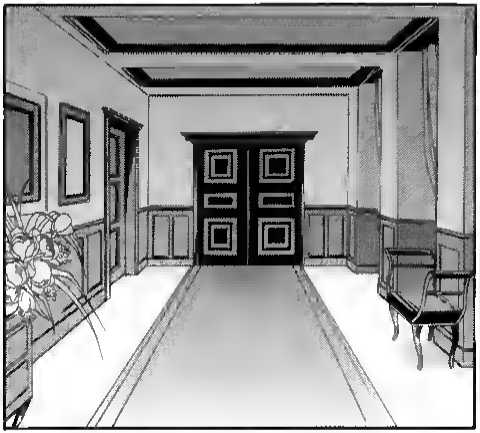
NEW
SCOTLAN
YARD

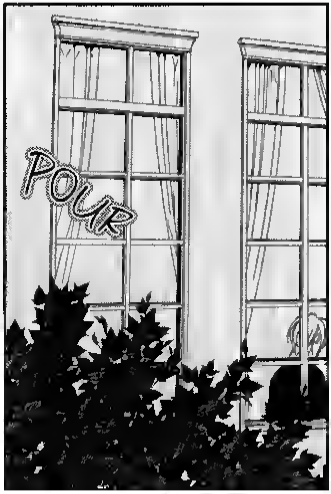
IF I MAKE A DEAL WITH HIM IN EXCHANGE FOR MY SURRENDER...
BECAUSE MANY PEOPLE IN THE POLICE ARE CONNECTED WITH MARKOV...
I COULD GO TO HIM INSTEAD HE WORKED TO INCREASE SECURITY AT THE ART MUSEUMS
THAT MAN I MET THE OTHER DAY "RUSSELL" IS SUPPOSED TO BE TRUSTWORTHY
RUSSELL?
AND THAT'S
!

WHY IS HE HERE?!
ALEXIS?!
CLACK
CLACK
pass

TURN

SO EVEN RUSSELL IS CONNECTED TO MARKOV
I CAN'T TRUST ANYONE IN THE POLICE.
IF I CAN'T MAKE A LEGAL EXCHANGE,
THEN THERE IS ONLY ONE OPTION LEFT.
POUR




POUR

THEIR SECURITY IS LAX TONIGHT

THIS WAY,
WITH MY OWN HANDS I'LL

GRAB

SHOVE
?!
...!
...
CLICK

KACHAK
IF YOU'RE LOOKING FOR MARKOV, HE'S AT HIS LOVER'S HOUSE TODAY.
YOU

I'M READY FOR THAT!
...
DID YOU HIDE HIM?
WHAT WILL YOU ACHIEVE BY KILLING MARKOV?
HIS SUBORDINATES WILL MAKE SWISS CHEESE OUT OF YOU!
SO I THOUGHT THAT MAYBE YOU'D...
I SAW YOU NEAR THE POLICE STATION TODAY,
AND IF YOU'RE IN THE WAY, I'LL KILL YOU TOO!

THUD
——?!
DO YOU REMEMBER THAT I ASKED YOU TO TRUST ME?
THAT'S STUPID! WHY SHOULD I TRUST MARKOV'S UNDERLING?
SINCE YOU'RE SO READY TO DIE. WHY DON'T YOU TRUST ME FIRST?
I'LL SAY THIS ONE MORE TIME
...

I LIKE YOU
MY RENDEZ-VOUS WITH YOU...
AND THE TIMES I SPENT WITH YOU AS KARI
I TREASURE THEM A LOT
ALEXIS...

I WON'T LET YOU DIE!
NO, YOU CAN'T DIE HERE!
SO PLEASE TRUST ME
ARE YOU SAYING YOU'LL BETRAY MARKOV?
I DON'T MIND
IF YOU DO THAT, YOU'LL GET KILLED

"LET'S DIE TO-GETHER."
WHAT A SWEET SOUND
I DON'T WANT TO INVOLVE ANYONE
BUT EVEN AS I THOUGHT THAT...
THEN LET S DIE TOGETHER

I LET
THIS MAN...

KISS
KISS
Hm
Haa...
THUD

Nn
Ah!
I LOVE YOU
Alexis,

squeeze
BECAUSE I'M HAPPY.
WHY ARE YOU CRYING?
IT'S OKAY. TRUST ME.
I DON'T KNOW WHERE THIS LOVE WILL END UP.

GRAB
CREAK
Ah! Hnn..
CREAK
CREAK
WILL WE BE ABLE TO DEFEAT MARKOV?
OR WILL WE GO DOWN IN FLAMES TOGETHER?
Ah! Ah!
BUT MY HEART, WHICH HAD BEEN WANDERING
SINCE I LOST MY PARENTS,
Ha...
Ah!

POUR
A PLACE CALLED ALEXIS
TONIGHT
HAS FINALLY FOUND THE PLACE WHERE IT BELONGS

Missing Code

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ミッシングコード

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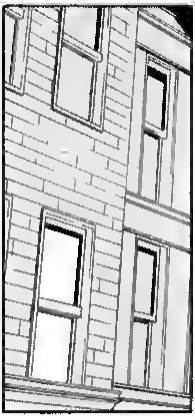
CLACK
CLACK
KNOCK
KNOCK

YOU CALLED FOR ME?
I'LL BE RETURNING TO RUSSIA FOR A WHILE
BECAUSE OF THAT THIEF SECURITY ON STOLEN ART PIECES HAS INCREASED
I ORDERED YOU TO TAKE CARE OF HIM! WHAT IS THE PROBLEM?
MY APOLOGIES
FOR BEING UNABLE TO TRACK HIM
I'M GIVING YOU A CHANCE TO REDEEM YOURSELF

THUD
THIS WILL BE THE LAST DEAL IN LONDON I'M LEAVING THE SECURITY MEASURES TO YOU.
Blink.
WHAT'S WRONG?
SO YOU WERE THE ONE WHO HAD IT
WHEN THIS PAINTING WAS STOLEN, IT CAUSED QUITE A STIR
THIS PAINTING IS

A CERTAIN ARAB ROYALTY
WHO IS THE BUYER?
TIGHT SECURITY WILL BE NECESSARY FOR THE DELIVERY
YES
IT'S A PAINTING EVERY COLLECTOR IN THE WORLD IS AFTER
Stroke
MISTAKES WILL NOT BE TOLERATED
THIS WILL BE A VERY IMPORTANT DEAL FOR US
I UNDER-STAND. LEAVE IT TO ME

SLAM



I WONDER IF...
...ALEXIS IS REALLY PREPARED TO Bbetray MARKOV
AND WHAT IS HIS RELATION-SHIP WITH CAPTAIN RUSSELL?
WHENEVER I QUESTION HIM
HE JUST INSISTS THAT I SHOULD TRUST HIM
click
WHAT IS HE PLANNING TO DO?
ALEXIS

JULIAN
MARKOV WILL BE MAKING AN EXCHANGE

THIS IS..
IF HE'S RETURNING TO RUSSIA,
THEN THIS IS MY LAST CHANCE TO CATCH HIM RIGHT?

WHAT'S WRONG?
THIS PAINTING WAS IN MY FATHER'S MUSEUM.
IT WAS STOLEN THE DAY AFTER BEING RETURNED FROM RESTORATION
ONLY MARKOV KNOWS WHERE THE PAINTING IS HIDDEN
BUT HE'LL DEFINITELY BRING IT WITH HIM ON THE DAY OF THE DEAL
TO BE CONTINUED

ARRESTING AN ART THIEF IS DIFFICULT.
IT MUST BE PROTECTED.
IF RETRIEVAL ISN'T TIMED PERFECTLY, THE STOLEN PIECE IS OFTEN DAMAGED
I HAVE TO SEE THIS THROUGH
WAIT!
I'M COMING ALONG FOR THE EXCHANGE
ALL OF HIS CRIMES WILL BE EXPOSED.
WHEN THIS D.I.T. IS DELIVERED TO THE POLICE,
LEAVE IT TO ME.

NO, IT'S TOO DANGER-OUS!
I'M GIVING THIS TO THE POLICE
Squeeze
BUT IF YOU DO THAT, MARKOV MIGHT KILL YOU
I CAN'T BEAR LOSING ANOTHER PERSON I LOVE
JULIAN
BY "PERSON I LOVE," YOU MEAN...

NO..
JUST NOW I
AH..
..
I WANT TO HEAR THAT FROM YOUR MOUTH AGAIN

YOUR STRENGTHS AND WEAKNESSES...
YOUR KINDNESS...
YOUR DEVOTION...
JULIAN...
I LOVE YOU.
THAT KIND OF THING...
I THOUGHT YOU ALREADY KNEW...
EVEN IF I'VE NEVER SAID IT OUT LOUD
EVERYTHING
EVEN THOUGH I KNOW HE WORKS FOR MARKOV, I'M STILL UNABLE TO REFUSE HIM
ME TOO ALEXIS

IF YOU LOVE ME
THEN PLEASE HAVE FAITH IN ME AND WAIT HERE
HE EVEN SAID "LET'S DIE TOGETHER." BUT IT'S THESE WORDS THAT MAKE ME HAPPY

I DO TRUST HIM
BUT...
...I HAVE TO TAKE RESPONSIBILITY FOR WHAT I'VE DONE
THAT'S WHY...

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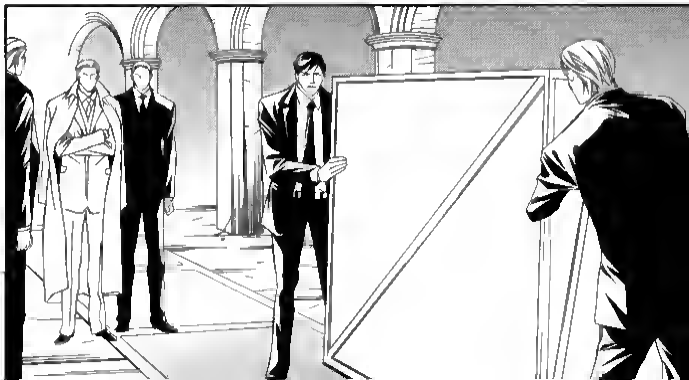

MARKOV'S LAST DEAL TAKES PLACE HERE.
"If you love me, then please have faith in me and wait here."
I'M SORRY, ALEXIS
THIS IS STRANGE THE OTHER PARTY HASN'T SHOWN UP YET
BUT I MUST TAKE RESPONSIBILITY FOR MY CRIMES

JOLT
smirk
WHAT ARE YOU...?!
THE OTHER PARTY WILL ARRIVE IN AN HOUR

BUT BEFORE THAT, I HAVE TO DEAL WITH YOU, ALEXIS.
AND SINCE YOU DID ME THE FAVOR OF INVITING THE ROSE THIEF HERE,
I'LL SEND YOU BOTH TO KINGDOM COME!
PLEASE WAIT!
I DON'T UNDERSTAND WHAT YOU'RE SAYING!
FOR SOMEONE WHO NEVER MAKES MISTAKES, YOU MAKE A LOT OF THEM WHEN IT COMES TO THAT THIEF!
YOU'RE WORKING TOGETHER AREN'T YOU?

WHERE ARE YOU HIDING?!
SHOW YOURSELF!
I WILL KILL HIM!
IF YOU WANT TO KILL ME, THEN SHOOT.
BUT THAT ACTION WILL BE YOUR LAST!
THEN I'LL GRANT YOUR WISH AND KILL YOU.

BANG
ARGH!
KACHAK
HE'S OVER THERE?!
IT CAN'T BE

COME OUT!
JULIAN
SO YOU'RE THE THIEF
I THOUGHT SO. YOU TWO HAVE PAIRED UP

TAKE IT BACK?
I JUST CAME TO TAKE BACK THE PAINTING
THE PAINTING THAT YOU STOLE FROM MY FATHER'S MUSEUM!
CLANK
BANG
SNATCH

Shock
THAT'S AS FAR AS YOU GO, MARKOV!

SHIT
CLICK
MARKOV IS FINALLY...
I HAVE AVENGED MY PARENTS AT LAST

DETECTIVE HUGH COUSINS OF THE LONDON POLICE SPECIAL INVESTIGATION UNIT
YOU'VE WORKED HARD DURING YOUR TIME UNDERCOVER
WE HAVE EVERY-ONE IN CUSTODY
THE PAINTING IS SAFE
WHAT?
I'M SORRY
I COULDN'T SAY ANYTHING UNTIL MARKOV WAS ARRESTED.
DETECT-IVE?

BUT I TOLD YOU TO TRUST ME, DIDN'T I?
sigh
EVEN SO...
I KEPT TELLING YOU NOT TO COME HERE
HONESTLY GUYS LIKE YOU...
BUT I'M JUST GLAD YOU'RE SAFE
I'M SORRY, I WAS WORRIED ABOUT YOU, SO...
THANK YOU.
YOU SAVED ME.

TO THINK THAT ALEXIS IS A DETECTIVE
THIS MAN KNOWS ABOUT ALL THE CRIMES I'VE COMMITTED
SO NOW...
I'LL FINALLY BE ABLE TO ATONE FOR WHAT I'VE DONE
HERE, PLEASE ARREST ME

THERE S NO NEED FOR THAT
BUT I..
IT'S OKAY
RIGHT, INSPECTOR?
HUGH TOLD ME THAT YOU WERE HELPING WITH THE INVESTIGATION
THANKS TO THE DATA YOU GAVE US, WE GOT THE WARRANT FOR MARKOV S ARREST

IS THIS REALLY OKAY?
YOU WERE JUST TRYING TO EXPOSE MARKOV THAT'S ALL.
BESIDES, I DON'T HAVE ANY EVIDENCE AGAINST YOU.
THAT'S NO GOOD!
YOU CAUGHT ME RED-HANDED WHEN I WAS STEALING
YES,
WHICH YOU DID TO HELP MY INVESTI-GATION.

FOR ME TO BE HAPPY
I WONDER IF IT'S OKAY
ALEXIS
YES
squeeze
YES, IF I CAN HELP I'LL DO EVERYTHING I CAN
I WANTED TO ASK IF YOU'LL DO SOME WORK FOR US
WHEN WE'RE DONE, WILL YOU HELP US EVALUATE THE ART PIECES WE'VE RECOVERED?

JULIAN...
I'VE LIVED MY LIFE FOR REVENGE.
BUT FROM NOW ON, I'LL LIVE TO BE BY THIS PERSON'S SIDE
THE ONE WHO FORGAVE MY SINS
THE ONE WHO LOVES ME
THE END

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Coming Home

COME TO THINK OF IT, LAST CHRIST-MAS
...MY HEAD WAS FULL OF THOUGHTS OF REVENGE,
WEEWOO
WEEWOO
NOW, I HAVE SOMETHING TRUE
BUT IT'S DIFFER-ENT NOW

Currently both sides have sustained casualties
who are barri-caded inside the art museum
Right now the police are in a standoff with several gunmen
BZZT
ALEXIS?!

THAT'S RIGHT, THIS MORNING...
I'VE ALWAYS LONGED...
FOR A CHRISTMAS EVE...
RUSTLE
DASH
...WHEN MY BELOVED WOULD BE WAITING FOR ME IN A WARM ROOM
...

AND BELIEVE IN HIM
I HAVE TO WAIT FOR HIM HERE
tick
tock

JULIAN!
click
DON'T TELL ME YOU'VE BEEN WAITING HERE THIS WHOLE TIME!
ALEXIS!
WELCOME HOME

I'M SORRY
WORK PILED UP, SO I GOT BACK LATE
THE SMELL OF GUN POWDER...
BUT THE FACT THAT HE'S A POLICE OFFICER MEANS
HE WILL ALWAYS BE IN DANGER
I'M HAPPY THAT HE ISN'T ONE OF THE MAFIA
squeeze
DON'T APOLOGIZE
IT'S ALL RIGHT

THANK YOU...
FOR KEEPING THE ROOM WARM AND WAITING FOR ME
MAKE SURE YOU COME BACK...
...TO WHERE I AM.
DON'T WORRY
WHATEVER IT TAKES, I'LL ALWAYS COME HOME TO YOU
THE END

ORIGINAL AUTHOR'S COMMENT

Masara Minase sensei, thank you for your hard work. While writing a script for a manga may have been too much for me, it was still a valuable and fun experience. I am grateful from the bottom of my heart for this opportunity.
Thank you very much.

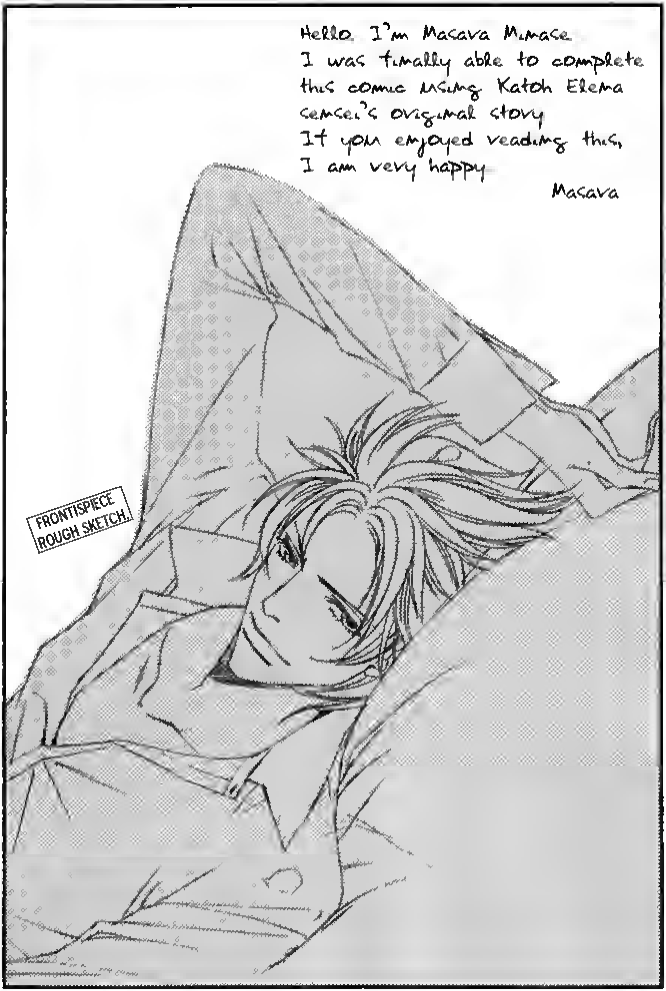
It all began with a request to make a love comedy set in Europe. Looking back, it's not as if I didn't notice that the story was going in a different direction. As I write this afterword, I feel very excited when I imagine how the finished volume will look. There are many parts that weren't good, so I caused a lot of trouble for the person in charge of editing at Lynx. Thank you very much.

During the magazine serialization, I was very happy to receive letters and emails from readers who wanted to know what was going to happen. I wonder if you all were satisfied with the ending. The seme was named Alexis while he was working undercover, but please just assume that he got used to that name after hearing it for so long and decided he would rather be called that. (Laugh)

The story takes place in England, the foreign country I've avoided for so long because my English isn't good. But British culture, literature, movies, history, parks and so on are all very attractive. However, their culture, literature, movies, history, and parks and such are very attractive. It's a fascinating country. I recklessly thought that one day I wanted to try and write about it. Well, even if there was nothing to write, I would like to go for a walk there.

My clumsy work went into Masara Minase sensei's hands and was made into a beautiful and stylish manga by which I am truly moved. To those who read this, I am happy if you enjoyed this work. If it's okay with you, I'd like to hear your impressions, too.
Well then, until next time.

Katoh Elena


Hello. I'm Macava Mimase.
I was finally able to complete
this comic using Katoh Elema
sensei's original story.
If you enjoyed reading this,
I am very happy.
Macava
FRONTISPIECE
ROUGH SKETCH

Tameiki no Ato ni

Katoh Elena

"Mister, can you pass that?"

A soccer ball rolled to a stop by Alexis's feet. When he raised his head, he saw some boys in blue shirts waving their hands at him.

'This?' Remaining seated on the bench, Alexis kicked the ball with the toe of his leather shoe.

On the north side of London's Hyde Park was a garden surrounded by greenery. It was close to his house, and Alexis had stopped by after his work at the Metropolitan Police Station. He wondered how long he had been on the bench, spacing out. The park along the canal was blooming with roses that glimmered in the orange sunset.

It's about time to go home, but how am I going to apologize to Julian?

Alexis sighed, depressed.

Why had he said that to Julian this morning? His heart was filled with regret at what he'd done.

It had been triggered by something so trivial—without asking, Julian had switched his turn to make breakfast.

"It's my turn this week. You cooked last week and the week before. You also took care of the cleaning instead of letting me do it. If you keep doing this, then there's no meaning to the promise we made to live as equals," Alexis said. The kitchen was filled with the aroma of Assam tea, and the table held freshly made toast, bacon, eggs, and orange juice. Normally, most people would be happy in this situation, but it made Alexis hate himself— it was just too perfect.

Julian spoke with a gentle smile, gazing at Alexis with his amber eyes. "You came home late last night, and I thought you'd be tired, so I—"

"Don't do unnecessary things. Weren't you up also up late evaluating art pieces? But still, you took care of me," Alexis replied in a surprisingly angry voice.

'No. If it's only a little, I want to—"

Without thinking, Alexis knocked Julian's hand aside. Watching Julian step back with a hurt expression, Alexis grew even more irritated, because he knew he was in the wrong.

"You're always like this. I'm happy you take care of me all the time, but I also want to see the innocent, childlike side of you that you showed me on your birthday. And still, you—"

"I'm sorry. It's not like I—"

Seeing that Julian was at a loss for words, Alexis said, "forget about it." He turned his back and left.

But he'd started to feel guilty the moment he left. His unreasonable, cruel treatment of Julian depressed him.

Julian... During that time spent undercover in the Russian mafia, we both lied about our intentions and identities. I tricked you, and you tricked me. As we tried to ascertain each other's true identities, we grew attached to one another. Before I noticed it was happening, I already loved you deep inside my heart.

Because they knew so little about each other, Alexis saw each of Julian's little gestures, smiles, and expressions as something precious yet poignant.

When they began living together, they learned more about each other's history and confirmed their feelings for one another. Still, new worries had appeared in Alexis's heart.

The care Julian gave him was almost excessive. When Alexis was with Julian, he felt immature and full of flaws.

Alexis wanted to make Julian happy, and he knew Julian liked to read, so on his birthday, he gave Julian a book with a bookmark. But although Julian had seemed happy to receive the gifts, Alexis hadn't seen him with them since. He thought that maybe Julian had only pretended to be happy with them.

To express his wish for Julian's happiness and good luck for them both, he'd picked a bookmark made of glass beads and rhinestones with a brass four-leaf clover. But it seemed as though his gesture was unwanted.

Alexis wondered what he was to Julian. Did Julian even need him? He began to feel lonely.

"I'll just ask him what I mean to him. If he doesn't need me, he should just say so." Grabbing his briefcase, Alexis stood up. At that moment, the ball came rolling up to his feet again.

"Mister, if you're free, come play with us." Smiling, one of the boys who were playing soccer had come up to Alexis.

"No, sorry. I'm busy, so..." As he spoke, he noticed a person moving behind the bushes. Alexis looked at him carefully. "That's..."

He could see the back of a slender young man. It was Julian. He was looking closely at the ground as he moved behind a flowerbed. But what for? Alexis wondered. "Come to think of it, that's the place where..."

On their way home from Julian's birthday dinner, Julian, who was very cheerful and a bit drunk, had looked so lovable that Alexis had pushed him down into those bushes without thinking. Julian had resisted, but Alexis held him down forcefully. Taking care to remain unnoticed, they had made love madly, enveloped by the almost suffocating scent of roses.

Alexis had gotten the feeling that after that time, Julian began making breakfast and taking care of all the cleaning by himself. Feeling his suspicions grow, he overheard one of the boys whisper, "That pretty man is here again today. I feel sorry for him. He still can't find it."

"And he searches so hard for it every day."

Alexis looked down at them. "Every day? What do you mean?"

"Well, he said that he'd dropped something very precious there."

Something very precious. What could it be? Alexis grew even more suspicious and stepped into the bushes. In a patch of grass surrounded by roses, Julian was on his hands and knees with a flashlight searching for something.

'What are you doing, Julian?"

"Huh?!" The light from the streetlamp fell on Julian's face. He looked as if he'd seen a ghost. His fair face was dirtied with mud, and his amber eyes were full of tears.

"What happened?! What is all this?"

"It's nothing. I'm sorry." Dropping his flashlight, Julian tried to run away.

"Wait! What are you doing?!" Grabbing his wrist, Alexis pushed Julian to the ground and looked directly into his face. Unable to move, Julian stared up at Alexis.

"Tell me! What are you doing here?" Alexis's commanding tone made Julian bite his lip. His eyes flickered as if he were afraid.

This time, Alexis spoke in a gentle voice. "What are you looking for? If you tell me, and if it's okay with you, I'll help you look for it."

Still trembling, tears began to fall from Julian's eyes. "I dropped it here. That bookmark... I'm sorry! And you gave it to me especially..."

Alexis felt a stab of pain as he saw Julian's trembling lips and tear stained cheeks. So that was what he'd come to look for every day.

"It's okay. I'll give you another." Alexis's chest tightened as he gazed at Julian's innocent face. He gently wiped the soil and tears from Julian's dirty cheeks.

'You gave it to me for our good luck. I'm really sorry.'

'Don't apologize. You should have just told me you lost it. I'm not so petty that I would get mad over something like this."

"I know that... I knew you wouldn't get angry because you're so gentle-almost too gentle. And since you always treat me as though I'm very special to you, I thought I should do something for you too. Like this morning, I..."

So that's how it was. Both of them had been thinking the same thing. Wanting to be needed and loved more deeply by one another.

"Julian... So that's why..." Alexis felt a lump in his throat. This was an adorable side of Julian that he'd never imagined, and an irrational side of himself he'd never known. The two of them would probably continue to see more of each other's different sides like this, deepening their bond.

Alexis put his hands on Julian's cheeks and touched their lips together. As if to caress his soft skin, Alexis brushed his lips gently against Julian's, and simultaneously, Julian's lips sought Alexis's.

'I love you."

With a soft sigh, Julian answered faintly, "Me too." Taking that as a sign, Alexis opened Julian's mouth with his own and entwined their tongues together. He felt Julian's arms shyly embrace him. They shared a passionate kiss. Alexis was filled with happiness as he realized that the fact that they thought so much of each other truly was their good luck.

初出

ミッシングコード　act 1 ――― 2006年7月 小説リンクス 8月号掲載
ミッシングコード　act 2 ――― 2007年1月 小説リンクス 2月号掲載
ミッシングコード　act.3 ――― 2007年7月 小説リンクス 8月号掲載
ミッシングコード　act.4 ――― 2007年9月 小説リンクス 10月号掲載
ミッシングコード　act 5 ――― 2008年5月 小説リンクス 6月号掲載
ミッシングコード　終結編 ――― 2008年7月 小説リンクス 8月号掲載
Coming Home ――― 描き下ろし

〒151-0051
東京都渋谷区千駄ヶ谷4-9-7
(株)幻冬舎コミックス リンクス編集部
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「華藤えれな先生」係

バーズコミックス リンクスコレクション

ミッシングコード

2008年12月24日 第1刷発行

著者 水名瀬雅良
発行人 伊藤嘉彦
発行元 株式会社 幻冬舎コミックス
〒151-0051 東京都渋谷区千駄ヶ谷4-9-7
TEL 03-5411-6434（編集）
発売元 株式会社 幻冬舎
〒151-0051 東京都渋谷区千駄ヶ谷4-9-7
TEL 03-5411-6222（営業）
振替00120-8-767643
印刷・製本所 共同印刷株式会社

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©MINASE MASARA/KATOH ELENA,GENTOSHA COMICS 2008
ISBN978-4-344-81509-4 C9979
Printed in Japan

幻冬舎コミックスホームページ http://www.gentosha-comics.net

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Missing Code

Minase Masara & Katoh Elena

Volume 1 : Extra

dpscanlations.deathsvertigo.com

Publisher
Gentousha

Published in
Novel Lynx

ISBN
9784344815094

Genre
Yaoi

Scanner
Aoi Aka

Translator
Natsume

Proofreader
Darkheart510

Cleaner
Aya-chi

Editor
Faye

Qcer
Army Kitten

Dangerous pleasure scanlation group